



PATENT DOCKET 204,651

#10 B/P/M  
5-10-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Focke et al. Examiner: C. Fiorilla  
Application Number: 09/598,995 Group Art Unit: 1731  
Filed: June 21, 2000  
Title: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR  
PRODUCING AND/OR PACKAGING CIGARETTES

RECEIVED  
MAY 09 2002  
TC 1700

STATEMENT OF FILING BY EXPRESS MAIL 37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.10

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AMENDMENT

In response to the office action dated January 2, 2002 in the above-captioned application, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-5 and 22, without prejudice.

Please rewrite claims 6-21 as follows (a marked-up version of the amended claims with the amendments indicated is attached herewith):

6. (Amended) Apparatus for producing tobacco products with elements and subassemblies for handling the tobacco products, characterized by the following features:

- a) arranged in the region of the elements and subassemblies for handling the tobacco products are collecting elements, conveying elements and/or suction-extraction elements for the purpose of receiving tobacco particles (19) caused to accumulate on account of the handling of the tobacco products,
- b) the tobacco particles (19) can be conveyed away by the conveying elements and/or by suction lines,

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